



*Always Ready
Always There*

The Gem State Guardian

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Missing Idaho Medal of Honor recipient from 1800s: *Final resting place determined to be in Idaho*

Final Statement recorded that he was buried in the Grangeville cemetery near Mt. Idaho, and that

mention of a Medal of Honor in the inventory.

There are four different cemeteries Smith could be buried in but due to poor record keeping in their early days, he is not listed in any of their burial records.

The Prairie View Cemetery in Grangeville has offered to put up an 'In Memory Of' marker for Smith. However, the marker must be privately funded due to Veterans Administration rules. The VA has authorized Granite Industries of Vermont to engrave and ship privately purchased granite markers that are very similar to the government markers. Costs range between \$860 and \$1060.

If you are interested in helping obtain a proper marker for William H. Smith, contact Gayle Alvarez of the Idaho Military History Museum at (208) 422-5301.



Pictured above is a marker very similar to the one proposed for Medal of Honor recipient William H. Smith, recognized for his actions in combat during the late 1860s.

William H. Smith was born circa 1847 in Lapeer, Michigan.

Smith and two other future Idahoans were at the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona Territory on October 20, 1869. In a letter from their commander detailing their actions in combat against Native American warriors, all three were recommended for the Medal of Honor.

Smith died at age 30 on October 5, 1877 in a field hospital at Camp Howard, Idaho Territory, due to inflammation of the bowels. His

his grave was "marked by head and foot boards but the lots are not." The report also shows that he was owed \$51.10 and that his debts amounted to \$64.17.

His effects included a memorandum book, a bundle of letters and an inkstand, so he likely had friends or family with whom he corresponded. Sadly, we have none of their names.

As was the custom at the time, some of his personal effects were auctioned off and the money (\$29.29) was sent to the Second Auditor's office. There was no

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